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MATERIAL COMPILED BY
MRS. CHARLES ELLSWORTH KNAFF
HISTORIAN SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER D. A. R.
in response to suggestions from
MRS. CHARLES E. DAVIDSON
State Historian D. A. R.
1920 - 1921

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made for the use of books
and maps at the State Historical Library, and for many helpful
suggestions from the librarians.

Eileen Gordon

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THE FOUNDING OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

For a number of years previous to 1821 the territory known as Sangamon County, or "The Sangamo Country," embraced parts of what are now known as Christian, Macon, McLean, Woodford, Marshall and Putnam counties, and all of Logan, Tazewell, Mason, Menard, and Cass counties.

Later it was reduced to an area of 876 square miles in the central part of the state, and on January 30, 1821, Sangamon County was created by an act of legislature.

At that time the land was virgin soil with wooded belts along the streams.

The first white man had settled here only four years previously.

Shadrach Bond was Governor of the state, and Pierre Menard Lieutenant Governor.

The first county commissioners were William Drennan, Zachariah Peter, and Rivers Cormack. They took the oath of office in the home of John Kelly on Tuesday, April 3, 1821.

Their first official act was the appointment of a clerk.

Charles R. Matheny was honored with the position, and after being duly sworn in "entered into bond with James Latham for the faithful performance of his duties."


During the year he was allowed \$87.50 for salary and for stationery furnished.

Eileen Goehmann

BRIEF SKETCHES OF SOME
NOTED MEN AND WOMEN OF SANGAMON CO.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN was a character too great to sketch in a few words, and too well known to need any words.

Eileen Lockman



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FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first white settlement in Sangamon county was in the fall of 1817 when Robert Pulliam built a log cabin about ten and one-half miles south of Springfield on S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 21, T. 14, N. R. 5 W. 3rd P. M. in what is now Ball township.

1st grant of land. The first grant of land was made to Israel Archer on November 6, 1823.

It was the west half of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, section 8, township 14, north of range 14 west.

Mason Fowler made a second entry on the same day.

On November 7, 1823 entries were made by Elijah Iles, Thomas Cox, John Taylor and Pascal P. Enos. Elijah Iles entered the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 27; Thomas Cox the S. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of sec. 28; John Taylor the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 33, and Pascal P. Enos the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 34.

Colonel Thomas Cox came to Springfield in 1823, having been appointed by President Monroe a Register of the Land office at this place.

Eileen Goehman

METHODISM IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

First
preacher.

The first religious society organized in Sangamon county was the Methodist society. It was organized in 1821 by Rev. John Clauville at the home of Charles R. Matheny. The meetings were held in Mr. Matheny's home or office until a schoolhouse was built.

Location
of first
church.

The 1st. church was erected on the corner of 5th and Monroe on lots donated by Pascal P. Enos in 1830.

Springfield charge was part of Sangamon circuit until 1833 when it became a station.

The second church building was erected on the southeast corner of Fifth and Monroe streets in 1851. The present edifice was erected in 1864 at the northeast corner of Fifth street and Capitol Avenue.

The first Methodist sermon in the Sangamon country was preached by Rev. James Simms, an itinerant preacher.

Eileen Lockman

FIRST SCHOOL AND FIRST TEACHER.

Zimri Enos, in a paper read before the State Historical Society in May, 1909, is authority for the statement that the first schoolhouse in Sangamon county was a round log cabin situated on the top of the hill on the north side of what is now Washington street and between Pasfield and Lewis streets. Its dimensions were 14 by 16 feet, with door on the east side, a stick and mud chimney at the north end, and one log cut out some 6 or 8 feet on both the south and west sides for windows, and slabs for benches, and rough boards for desks.

The first teacher, Andrew Orr began to teach in 1831.

FIRST DOCTOR IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

Dr. Gershom Jayne was the first doctor in Sangamon county and the first to locate in the district north of Alton and Edwardsville, and west of Chicago. He came into this territory in 1820.

Taken from an article written by Dr. George F. Kreider in the History of Sangamon county published in 1912.

FIRST NEWSPAPER.

Simon Francis founded the Sangamo Journal in 1831. It became the State Journal in 1855.

Eileen Goddard

MATERIAL FOR FIRST RAILROAD.

In 1830 Wm. J. Rutledge ran a sawmill at Spring Creek and sawed stringers used in laying the first railroad track in Illinois.

Powers History, Page 11.

FIRST LAWYER IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

By an act approved Feb. 11, 1821, Sangamon county with St. Clair, Madison, Greene, Pike and Montgomery counties, constituted the first judicial circuit in Illinois.

The first term of the Sangamon Circuit Court was held May 7, 1821, at the home of John Kelly on the present site of Springfield.

First
Lawyer.

James Adams is said to have been the first attorney-at-law to settle in the county. He was a native of Hartford, Conn., born in 1803. After having spent his boyhood in Oswego, N. Y., he came to Springfield in 1821. In 1823 he was appointed Justice of the Peace. He later served in the Winnebago and Black Hawk Wars, and in 1841 was elected Probate Judge.

He died Aug. 11, 1843.

From an article written by Hon. James A.
Connolly for the History of Sangamon
county, published in 1912.

Eileen Lockman

FIRST MARRIAGE RECORD.

Sangamon County.

I do certify that I solemnized the marriage
of William Moss and Peggy Cims on the 20 day of April 1821.

Abraham Sinnard J. P.

recorded July 20 1827

C. R. Matheny, Clk.

No. 1

The above marriage record is the first recorded in Sangamon
county and is on file in the County Clerk's office in
Springfield, Illinois.

As there were people by the name of Sims in the county in 1821
but none by the name of Cims, so far as known, the family name of
the bride was probably misspelled in the record.

Aileen Lockman

THE FIRST MARRIAGE OF WHITE PEOPLE IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

In 1819 Mrs. Abigail Stillman, a widow, living with her family of eight children in Canandaigua, N. Y., determined to seek a home in the beautiful, fertile Illinois territory of which she had heard through travelers from the west.

Her four daughters and four sons had been given the best educational advantages of their day, and the mother decided to take them to a larger field of opportunity where land could be had for the asking.

On the westward journey they stopped at Morganfield, Ky., in the summer of 1819 and there raised a crop of corn and vegetables for the coming winter.

While in Morganfield the family met young Philo Beers, a native of Woodbury, Conn., who at that time was prospecting in western Kentucky, southern Illinois and parts of Missouri.

In the spring of 1820 the Stillman family came up into Illinois and settled on a tract of land in what is now Williams township, Sangamon county.

Mr. Beers came north soon after this and became a resident of Carlyle, Illinois. He was a frequent visitor in the Stillman home, and on November 2, 1820 he married Martha Stillman. They were the first white couple married within the bounds of what later became Sangamon county. At that time the Sangamon country was still a part of Madison county, so the marriage license was obtained in Edwardsville on Oct. 27, 1820. It bore the number 279 and was signed by B. B. Hoffman, Clerk. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Stephen England.

Eileen Lockman



Mr. Beers sat for Washington county in the State General Assembly in the winter of 1824-5. Soon after this he came to Sangamon county, and later came to Springfield and built the first brick dwelling house in the city at the corner of Fifth and Madison streets.

Mr. and Mrs. Beers were charter members of the Christian church organized in Springfield in 1833.

The above facts were taken from a paper written by Charles P. Kane, a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Beers, and read before the State Historical Society in 1905, and published in the volume of proceedings the next year.

Urban Gochanour

FIRST DEED.

S. Purviance This indenture made the twentieth Day of April in
to
Jones in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
twenty-seven between David S. Purviance and Elizabeth his
wife of the one part and Claybourne Jones of the other part all of
Sangamon county, State of Illinois witnesseth That the said David S.
Purviance and Elizabeth His wife for an in consideration of the Sum
of one hundred Dollars to them in hand paid by the said Claybourne
Jones the receipt whereby is hereby acknowledged hath granted bar-
gained and Sold unto Claybourne Jones His heirs and assigns forever
all our right title interest and claim of in and to the west half of
the south East Quarter of Section thirtyfour township seventeen north
of Range Seven west together with all the rights Privileges and
hereditaments thereunto belonging to the the only proper use of the
said Claybourne Jones his heirs Executors and assigns forever and
further said David S Purviance & Elizabeth His wife doth agree on
their part to warrant and forever defend the aforesaid premises and
every part thereof unto Claybourne Jones his heirs and assigns against
all persons claiming by from them or any of them by from any other
person or persons whatever In witness whereof the parties of the
first part have hereunto Set their hands and Seals the Day above
written in presence of us
Dallas Scott D. S Purviance Seal
 Elinalth Purviance Seal

State of Illinois Personally appeared --- - -
Sangamon County ---- before me Abraham Sinnard one of the
Justices of the peace in and for said county David S. Furviance who
acknowledged that He did voluntarily sign Seal and deliver the within

Eileen Gocharov

Deed for the purposes herein Specified also personally appeared Elizabeth Purviance wife of the said David S Purviance and being examined Separate and apart from the husband the within Deed to be her voluntary act and Deed without threats or persuasion in testimony hereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this twentieth Day of April Eighteen hundred and twenty Seven

Abraham Sinnard
Justice of the peace

Recorded Aug 30th 1827

Edward Mitchell R S C

The above deed is a copy of the first one recorded in Sangamon county and is on file in the recorder's office in the Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.

In the copy the spelling, punctuation, and capitalization are the same as in the original.

Eileen Goddard

THE FIRST WILL RECORDED IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

Springfield Aug 6 1821

The Court Met agreeable to adjournment present-- Jas. Latham--

In the name of God Amen I Peter Lanterman of the County of Sangamo and State of Illinois being of sound and perfect Mind and Memory do make and publish this my Last will and Testament in manner following (that is to say) first I give and Bequeath Unto my Daughter Sophiah now Sophiah Linsey the sum of five Dollars

I give and Bequeath unto my son John Lanterman the sum of five Dollars

I give unto my son Daniel the sum of five Dollars & I give and Bequeath to my Son James five Dollars and my will is that the above named Legacies be paid as soon as may be after my Decease out of My personal Estate My will is further that after my Body is decently Buried and my funeral Expenses paid that all My personal Estate except my farming utensils to be Equally divided between my three Children Now remaining with me To wit Abram Peter and Alletty my will is that my beloved wife be supported off of my farm and farming utensils and at the decease of my beloved wife that my farm and farming utensils be equally divided my Sons Abram and Peter My will is further that should my Sister in Law Mary Applegate not be otherwise provided for that my said two sons Abraham and Peter and my said daughter Alletty shall take care of and provide for My said Sister in law Mary Applegate out of the estate hereby bequeathed them. I do hereby appoint My Two Sons Abram Lanterman and Peter Lanterman Executors of this my last will and testament and enjoin it on them to see

Eileen Lockman

The First Will Recorded in Sangamon County. (cont.)

every part thereof carryed into according to the true intent and meaning thereof

In witness that the the foregoing is my last will and testament I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal the 4th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and twenty one note the interlineation was made before Signing

Peter Lanterman Seal

Signed Sealed published and declared by the above named Peter Lanterman to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto Subscribed our names as witness in the presence of the testator

Charles R Mathony
George W Kelly

State of Illinois
Sangamon County

Personally cum before me the subscriber James Latham Judge of the Court of Probate for said county Charles R Mathony & George Kelly who being duly sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God declared and said that the foregoing will is the Last will and testament of said Peter Lanterman deceased testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Springfield the 6 day of August 1821 and of the Independence 46th

Jas E Latham Seal

The foregoing will is on file in the Probate Court room,
Sangamon County Courthouse, Springfield, Illinois.

In this copy of the will, the spelling, capitalization and punctuation are the same as in the original.

Pilem Gocharner

Revolutionary Soldier	Daughter	Date of Birth	Name of husband	Where buried.
Enos Campbell	Jane	April 29, 1808	Jacob Ward	Buried in Old Acworth Cemetery 2 miles west of Salisbury on the old Barnett farm.
Ezekiel Harrison	Lucinda	March 13, 1792	Rev. Theophilus West	Buried about 2 miles west of Salisbury on the old Harrison home place.
Thomas Massie	Frances J.	June 25 1802	William Ralston	Morgan cemetery south of Farmington
William Ralston	Emily	Dec. 30 1831	Jacob J. Brown	Morgan cemetery south of Farmington
John Purviance	Matilda	May 3 1816	Madison R., Capt. of (Son of the Capt. of the 1st)	Buried in the cemetery in Reasants David
Thomas Royal	Rebecca	July 30 1812	Jacob Boyd	Brown cemetery Cotton Hill tomb

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

NAMES

PLACES OF BURIAL

✓1. Isaac Baker	Morterville Cemetery, Rochester t'w'p.
✓2. Moses Broadwell	Cak Ridge " Springfield
✓3. George Bryan	Woodside "
✓4. John Burton	Chatham "
✓5. Enos Campbell	Salisbury "
✓6. Christian Carver	Cak Hill " Clear Lake twp
✓7. Philip Crowder	Family burying ground west of Springfield
✓8. Aquilla Davis	Wolf Creek Cemetery, Williams twp.
✓9. James Dingman	Family burying ground near Riverton.
✓10. James Haggard	Gardner twp.
✓11. Ezekiel Harrison	Buried on farm where he settled about two miles west of Salisbury, Cartwright twp
✓12. John Lockridge	Chatham Cemetery
✓13. Thomas Massie	Old Salem " north of Biddle Hill.
✓14. Joel Maxey	" " " " " "
✓15. Peter Millington	Zion Cemetery, Cotton Hill twp.
✓16. John Peake	Old Salisbury Cemetery
✓17. William Penny	Richland Cemetery Cartwright twp.
✓18. George Pulliam	Cumberland " near Glenora
✓19. John Purvines	Richland " Cartwright twp.
✓20. William Ralston	Morgan " Gardner twp. one mile south of Farmingdale.
✓21. Thomas Royal	Brunk Cemetery Ball twp.
✓22. John Stringfield-Herns	Herns " Fancy Creek twp.
✓23. William Cassady	Rochester " "Traditional Record."
✓24. James Waddell	Rochester " "Traditional Record."
✓25. Mr. Pettus	Woodside " "Traditional Record"
✓26. Abijah Smith	Buried in Bethel Cemetery about two miles northwest of Pleasant Plains.

His great-grand-daughter, Mrs. John E. George of Springfield, states that he enlisted in the Revolutionary Army in New Jersey and served with distinction, but the records of his services were burned in New Jersey and are not recorded in Washington. One of his descendants has a newspaper clipping telling of his Revolutionary record, and older members of the family have clear recollections of seeing his Revolutionary army uniform years ago.

Eileen Johnson

The following Revolutionary soldiers died in Sangamon county and are probably buried here, but place is not known.

Basil Clark --- died in Salisbury township in 1840.
Michael Clifford -- died in 1835.
Robert Fisk
William Haile -- killed by Indians in 1832.
Thomas James -- died in Rochester, Nov. 2, 1833.
John White -- died in 1853.

buried White Cemetery south of Painesville -

Since Mrs. Harriet Walker's book "Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Illinois" was published in 1917, it has been found that four of the Revolutionary soldiers supposed to be buried in Sangamon county were buried elsewhere. They are:

Abram Lucas --buried in Stoenberger Cemetery, 4 miles southeast of Mt. Pulaski, in Logan county.
Zachariah Hance -- Menard county
John Overstreet -- Menard county
John Turley -- Logan county

REAL DAUGHTERS BURIED IN SANGAMON CO.

1. Mrs. Phoebe D. Cleveland (Oak Ridge, Springfield.
2. " Rhoda Smith Tomlin Bethel Cemetery, about two miles northwest of Pleasant Plains.
3. " Elizabeth Smith Vane--- buried near Williamsville.

(Mrs. Rhoda Smith Tomlin and Mrs. Vane were daughters of Abijah Smith, and great-aunts of Mrs. John D. George of Springfield.)

Edwin Lockman

THE INDIANS IN SANGAMON COUNTY.

The histories of the early days of Illinois tell of many and various tribes of Indians that had lived and waged wars within the present boundaries of the state.

In "The Early History of the Sangamon Country" written by John G. Henderson in 1873 he states that the Sangamon country (which was many times larger than Sangamon county) was bounded as follows: "On the north by the Sangamon river, on the west by Illinois river, on the south by Apple Creek; and it extended to the east fifty or sixty miles.

In the Pottawattamie language Sangamon means plenty to eat. Long before the white man came west the Indians realized that the soil in this region was unusually fertile and productive.

Up to the 30th of July 1819, altho the state had been admitted to the union, the Kickapoo Indians were the rightful owners of all that scope of country lying south of the Wankakee river, east of the Illinois river and north of a line drawn from the mouth of the Illinois river to the Vabash. This tract comprised within its limits the finest lands in the state, and the favorite hunting grounds of the Kickapoos which they claimed as their property by descent from their ancestors, and by conquest from the Illinois tribe of Indians, with an uninterrupted possession of more than half a century.

The treaty by which they ceded the above tract to the United States was made July 30, 1819 at Edwardsville, Illinois.

August Choteau and Benjamin Stevenson conducted the negotiations for the United States, while Pe-ne-a-tam, Le-na-see, Tee-tat-ta, She-koan, Mawn-to-ho, and eighteen other dusky chiefs and their warriors, with their plumes, beads, paint and wampum, acting "for them-

Eileen Lockman

selves and their said tribe" reluctantly made their scrawls and marks to the instrument which gave up forever to the hated pale faces their homes, hunting grounds, and the graves of their ancestors, twelve million six hundred thousand acres of land for the small sum of less than one-sixth of a cent per acre, and the promise of a permanent home beyond the Mississippi.

A large portion of this ceded tract was known at that time as the Sangamon Country."

Between 1612 and 1820 many battles and skirmishes took place between the pioneer fathers and the red men in their struggles for possession of this country.

Sangamon county was organized in 1821 and was much smaller than the territory known as Sangamon Country. The county contains only 550,000 acres.

In the War of 1812 when the territorial governor, Ninian Edwards, led an army from Fort Russel (near Edwardsville) to Peoria, he followed an old Indian trail. In the Journal of the State Historical Society, April to January 1911-12, Mr. Zimri A. Enos states that after entering the present boundary of Sangamon county this trail passed north through the prairie between the timber lines of Brush Creek and Horse Creek, then between South Fork and Sugar Creek, through Round Prairie, and across the Sangamon river between the mouths of Sugar Creek and South Fork; thence by Clear Lake and through the prairie to Buffalo Hart Grove; thence on the divide between the waters of Lake Fork on the east and Wolf Creek on the west, to Elkhart Grove and Peoria.

Allen Goshen

This trail lay a few miles east of Springfield, but not many years ago there were still traces of a trail coming into the city from the south-east which may have been a branch from the main trail. It led to a spring in what is now called Washington Park, where the Indians had a camping ground.

The topography of Sangamon county is such that it must have been an ideal hunting and camping ground, and was, doubtless, the scene of many interesting events in Indian history, but so far as known there are no records of particular events occurring within the present boundaries of the county, and no spots are marked by tablets or stones.

Eileen Gochman

PETER CARTWRIGHT was born Sept. 1, 1785 in Amherst Co., Virginia.

In 1791 his father's family came west and settled in Kentucky.

When scarcely sixteen years of age he was converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal church. Soon after this he was authorized to hold religious meetings. He continued to preach for more than fifty years, and was the best known camp meeting preacher. It is estimated that he preached not less than 15,000 sermons.

In 1824 he brought his family to Sangamon Co., Illinois, and bought a small farm in a township that was afterward named in his honor.

He served two terms in the state legislature.

He died Sept. 25, 1872.

Allen Goehner

NINIAN WIRT EDWARDS, son of Governor Ninian Edwards, was born in Frankfort, Kentucky, April 15, 1809.

His boyhood was spent in Kaskaskia, Edwardsville, and Belleville.

In 1833 he graduated from Transylvania University.

He came to Sangamon County in 1835, and in 1836 was elected to the legislature from Sangamon County as a colleague of Abraham Lincoln. In 1838 he was re-elected to the House, elected to the Senate in 1844, and again to the House in 1849.

He was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1847.

From 1854 to 1857 he served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

He married Elizabeth P. Todd, sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

He wrote "Life and Times of Ninian Edwards."

His death occurred in August, 1889.

Edwards, Fochanner

COL. EDWARD DICKINSON BAKER was born Feb. 24, 1811, in London, England.

In 1815 his father's family came to America, landing in Philadelphia. In 1826 the family came to Belleville, Illinois and in 1835 to Springfield.

He became a law partner of Stephen A. Logan.

He delivered the oration at the laying of the corner-stone of the Illinois State House, July 4, 1837.

In 1840 he was elected State Senator for four years, and was elected to Congress in 1845.

When the Mexican War broke out he raised a regiment which was accepted by the government as the 4th Ill. Infantry.

In 1860 he went to Oregon to live and was elected U. S. Senator from that state.

He was a brilliant orator, and was the man who introduced Abraham Lincoln to the audience in Washington after he was inaugurated.

He commanded a brigade at Ball's Bluff where he was killed in October, 1861.

Eileen Goddard

JOHN HAY, author, diplomat, and Secretary of State, was born in Salem, Ind., Oct. 8, 1858.

He graduated from Brown University in 1858, and studied law in Springfield, Ill., where he was admitted to practice in 1861, but immediately went to Washington as assistant private secretary to President Lincoln.

After the assassination of the President he served as secretary of Legation in Paris and Madrid.

He was editor for a time of the Illinois State Journal at Springfield, and a leading editorial writer for The New York Tribune.

His important literary works include "Castilian Days," Pike County Ballads," and a ten-volume "History of the Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln."

In September 1898 he was appointed Secretary of State to fill the unexpired term of William R. Day. He was re-appointed by President Roosevelt and died in office July 1, 1905.

Allen Johnson

MRS. JESSIE PALMER WEBER is the daughter of General John M. Palmer, who served Illinois and the Nation in various public capacities for a period of fifty years as Governor of the State, U. S. Senator, as Chairman of, or delegate to, important state and national conventions, and as leader in some of the most important military operations in the country.

But Mrs. Weber is entitled to a high place among the leading people of the state on her own merit.

For many years she has been a guiding spirit in literary and historical research work in Illinois.

She is librarian of the State Historical Library and secretary and treasurer of the Illinois State Historical Society. She has charge of the publication of the historical works issued by the library, and has done much to preserve the priceless records of epoch making events in state and nation. She was appointed by Gov. Edward F. Dunne secretary of the Illinois Centennial Commission Jan., 1916, and the marked success of the various events held in connection with the celebration of the Illinois Centennial in 1918 was due in large measure to her leadership.

Her work will "illuminate the story of the state" through all the years to come.

Eileen Gochanson

MRS. FRANCINE ELIZABETH PATTON came into state and national prominence when Governor Altgeld appointed her a member of the Woman's Board of Managers of the Chicago World's Fair, which office she filled with much credit to the state.

During her long and useful life she has been identified with many social, religious, and civic organizations.

In some of these she has been the organizer, and leader, lending her voice and her influence to the things that have been of the highest worth to the community.

She is still living in Springfield, Ill.

Eileen Jackson

MRS. EVA MURSON SMITH was one of the most remarkable women of her day.

She was born in Monkton, Vt., July 3, 1843.

She was a woman of many gifts and used them all for the betterment of mankind.

About 1877 she began to write and speak for the cause of Woman's Suffrage, and often appeared before legislative bodies in its behalf when it was most unpopular.

She began giving oratorical contest medals to children in 1886; continued them in the Prohibition movement for six years; then for five years carried on the suffrage or Susan B. Anthony contests.

She was a writer of verse, and the composer of many vocal and instrumental selections. Her greatest literary and musical work was "Woman in Sacred Song," a book of hymns, religious poems, and sacred music by women, compiled and edited by Mrs. Smith, with an introduction by Francis E. Willard.

The greater part of her life was spent in Springfield, Illinois. She died in 1915.

Eileen Johnson

MRS. ELLA HUNTINGTON HENKEL was the daughter of one of Springfield's old and highly esteemed families.

About 1880 she graduated from the Boston Conservatory of music and made a national reputation as a singer.

She was in the prime of her career between 1880 and 1890 and during that period, and even later, she sang before many noted people, and for large audiences.

Eileen Johnson

MRS. MARY SPAULDING LEE was born in Springfield in 1879, and died in 1920.

She was active in all forms of social betterment, and interested in legislation that promoted them.

Her home served as headquarters to women who came to the capital city to appear before the Legislature in behalf of industrial bills.

She was President of the Springfield Woman's Trade Union League.

To promote free kindergartens she organized and conducted a kindergarten in one of the city schools.

She was very active in Americanization work during the war, associated with Dr. Caroline Ledger of Chicago, and was chairman of the Women in Industry Committee of the State Council of Defense.

Eileen Johnson

MRS. MARY CAROLINE CWSLEY BROWN (Mrs. C. C.) was president of the Presbyterian Synodical Missionary Society of Illinois for twenty years. She died in October 1919, and the Synodical Society has endowed a room in the Dowd hospital, Peking, China, as a memorial to her.

She was assistant county chairman of Red Cross work during the war; was president of a local missionary society for ten years; president of the Woman's Club, five years, and an active member in other clubs.

Eileen Johnson

THE SUGAR CREEK COUNTRY IN 1840.

By

MOSES GOLDWIN WARDSWORTH.

(The letters following were published in the Auburn (Ill.) Citizen, in the spring and summer of 1903.)

No. 1.

There are people yet living in the Sugar Creek territory whose coming antedates that of the writer, but their number is very few, and they never, that I am aware of, write of the early days. It is upwards of 62 years since my first view of the scenes of Southern Sangamon, 1840, only 23 years after the erection of the first cabin in the county.

It seems wonderful that in a little more than a score of years the entire timber line, from the "Upper Grove" to the mouth of the creek, should have been taken up and populated. The prairies, however, save a few small fields bordering the forest line, still (and for years thereafter) might be seen in their virgin purity, as they had lain for hundreds of years, few of the immigrants possessing the temerity to pitch their cabins where they could scarcely shelter their stock from the cold of winter or the heat and flies of summer.

A list of the settlers of the Sangamon creek country at the time of which I write, may be of interest to the CITIZEN readers, very many of them being descendants of those early settlers. I shall be compelled, by lack of space, to limit myself to the males who were then residing between the head of the Sangamon and the mouth of the creek. (The "Southern Sangamon" area, as it were, is not so large as it formerly was for timber, but I think the catalogue is tolerably complete. The early comers were mainly from Kentucky and Virginia, and a few from Ohio and Tennessee, with an occasional family from the Atlantic region.

THE ARRIVAL IN 1840.

Moses Davidson, Robert Smith, Jurdy Atlin, Michael Gates and sons, Andrew and Peter, Jacob Rauch, John, James, David, B. A., and William Walters, William, Peyton, John and Leonard Paster, Elijah A. John, William

Allen Johnson

(2)

M. and Nathan West, John G. Shaeffer, Samuel Short, Daniel Dick, Capt. William Caldwell, and son William, Micajah Organ, Nathan and Washington Fletcher, Benjamin and Abram Bessler, Samuel McElvain and sons, Wm. A., and James, L. B. Richardson, John Roach and son William, James H. Pettis, Joseph Foley, John and Andrew Dill, Robert Orr and sons, Andrew and Alexander C., William ("Boss") Hilton, G. B. Walters, Col. James Patton and sons, Wm. W. and Matthew, M. Patton Kenney, Joseph Moore and sons, Neuben and Morrison M., Simeon, Gideon and Penrod Vancil, Henry Shutt and sons, Jacob, Joseph and Henry Jr., John Wallace, George W. Zimmer, Geo. Loving, Harmon Husband, Jerezy Forbes, Thomas W. Higgins, Philip Kineman, Henry Duke, Israel Davis, Edward, David, Wm. D. C. B. Crow, David, Asa, George and Augustus Eastman, Wm. B. Fonday, Rev. Am. C. Greenleaf, Joseph Grogan, Evan John, Elwood Ewing, P. S. Carter, Daniel Casworth, (the foregoing eleven living in "Old Auburn,") Owen Maynard, Samuel Wimer, Silas Harlan and nephews, Elijah and John Harlan, John French, Jared Carter, George Kennedy, M. F. Cannon, Job F. Harris, Noah, Thomas and Seth Mason, Ezra Barnes, Elijah Harlan, Sr., and sons, Wm. P., Matthew and John A., Job Fletcher ("Squire") and Job Fletcher ("Captain"), Jonas Mastner, Thomas Black and sons, David, John, Thomas, Jr., and Carter T., J. H. and H. C. A. Viney, Joseph Bodds, Sr., and sons, J. D. Chamber, Jonathan B. Coleman, and Ezekiel N. Brennan.

No. 2.

EARLY COLORED POPULATION.

Within the memory of the OLIVEH readers there have been no colored residents inside the territory embraced in these sketches. In 1840 there were three, all brought from Kentucky, I believe, by the families with whom they lived. Capt. William Caldwell had a man called Josh, and when the family, in 1840, moved to the farm in Curran township (the present residence of the Captain's grandson, Hon. B. F. Caldwell,) Josh, of course, went too, and at the Captain's death, his son, John, who had come from Greene County, succeeded to the charge of Josh, and after his death his son, B. F., became the man's benefactor. Josh died some years ago at an advanced age.

A negro girl, named Polly, lived in Joseph Foley's family, and another named Julia, in Alex. Cassity's family. Whether they died, married, or went away, I have forgotten, but it must be nearly or quite half a century

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since the disappearance of both from this vicinity.

BRIEFLY BIOGRAPHICAL.

Many incidents might be related of those early days that would be of interest to the readers of this paper, a few of which I will mention. Some of them will be found in "Power's Old Settlers' History," which, by-the-way, a goodly number of those who read these letters, have never seen.

Jacob Rauch was a native of Stuttgart, Germany, and came, a young man of 22, to America, in 1816. Having no money to pay his passage (\$70 being the price,) he was put up at auction, after his arrival in Philadelphia, according to a law in those days, to secure the passage money. A merchant named Clapper, bought him and he was indentured for three years to reimburse his purchaser. He was sent to Alabama, and put at boat building, but he was so ill-treated, both as regards work and food, that human nature revolted, and he ran away, six months before the expiration of his probation. He went to Muhlenburg County, Kentucky, where, in 1824, he was married to Miss Pauline Foley, sister of Joseph Foley. In the fall of 1829 they emigrated to what is now the south end of Auburn Township, where Mr. Rauch entered three-fourths of section 33. Sugar Creek running through his land, he built a water grist and saw mill, with which he ground out flour, meal and lumber for his neighbors, until his death in 1843, after which his son, Charles, long continued the business.

Captain William Caldwell obtained his title from the command of a company from Jessamine county, Kentucky, in the war of 1812. He was afterward sheriff of said county, and served several terms in the Kentucky legislature, and two terms in the Illinois general assembly. Captain Caldwell died in 1844, of cancer, from which he suffered for years. The writer remembers him as a portly man of fine appearance. He was a man of much public spirit, and was highly respected by all.

Henry Thutt, Sr., was one of the most patriarchal appearing men I ever saw. He wore a long full beard, and was exceedingly amiable and even-tempered man. He came from Muhlenburg County, Ky., in 1829, and died in 1852 at about the age of his youngest son, Henry Jr., (present) 89 yrs.

Eileen Lockman

Colonel James Patton received his title from his early connection with military affairs. He was a native of Baltimore, and born on St. Patrick's Day, 1791. Coming to Kentucky with his parents in childhood, he learned the tanner's trade, which he followed in Christian County, in that state, where he settled in 1810. The family came to this township in 1820, where the Colonel entered a tract of land and resumed the tanner's trade. He was a man of great generosity and kindness of heart, and was a friend and helper to all needy immigrants. He died at a good old age.

No. 3.

Lewis B. Richardson was one of the early arrivals, his father coming to the county in 1824. He was married twice, and reared a large family. David A. Richardson, of Virden, and Mrs. C. T. Murphy, of Auburn, fruits of his second marriage, are the only ones of his children living in the state. He was an occasional preacher of the Baptist faith, and though blunt in his discourses and conversation, was a man of incorruptible integrity. While a young man, he was out duck-hunting one spring day, when, in discharging his flintlock gun at a bird, the breechpin blew out and found lodgment in his skull, just above the eye. Several persons tried, ineffectually, to pull it out with a pair of pincers, when he, becoming indignant at their failure, ejaculated: "Give me them pincers," and seizing the implement, he, with a jerk, drew out the ugly piece of iron. The frightful wound would, no doubt, have killed some people, but he was a man of iron constitution and good habits, and rapidly recovered from the hurt, but one eye was twisted out of shape as long as he lived.

Samuel McIlvain, born in Virginia, in 1794, went to Albion County, Ky., while a young man, and was one of "Old Hickory's" famous Kentucky troops at the battle of New Orleans, when but 20 years of age; returned to Kentucky, and was married there to Miss Penelope Abell. All of their five children were born in that state. The family came to Auburn township in 1828. A Presbyterian church was organized at his house in 1830, and Mr. McIlvain was a ruling elder of the same until his death in 1848. The family lived in a large log house, on the stage road, and I remember the sign on a tall pole in front of the house, "Entertainment by S. McIlvain." The apostrophe was so small that at a little distance it was indistinguishable, and strangers passing would read it, "S. McIlvain."

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Thomas Black emigrated from South Carolina, where he was born in 1768, to Christian County, Kentucky, and to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1819. He settled about three miles west of the present town of Auburn, where he built a horse-and-ox mill, which ground grain for his neighbors for many years. He died in 1851, at the age of 84.

Philip Wineman came from his birthplace, (Botetourt County, Virginia,) to the Sugar Creek country in 1823, was twice married, and died an octogenarian. While yet a young man, he worked hard to accumulate means to buy some land, making rails at 25 and 30 cents a hundred. At his death he was one of the most extensive land owners in South Sangamon. He laid out the east side of the present village of Auburn, under the name of "Wineman," (which was merged, years later, into the town of Auburn.)

Edward and William D. Crow for many years conducted a saw and grist mill on the creek, near where A. G. Barber and sisters now live. Their father, Robert Crow, built the original mill, and after his death his sons rebuilt it. Being unable to run it but a limited portion of the year, for lack of water, they sold it to Caleb Teacock, about 1850, and built a steam mill about 8 miles farther down the creek, which continued to run years after the death of both the brothers.

Matthew T. Kenney, a native of Christian County, Kentucky, and a nephew of Col. James Patton, came to the township in 1827. He died in the prime of manhood, in 1851, aged 43. He was a very tall man, being about the height of Abraham Lincoln, and had the longest and most muscular hand I ever saw on a human being. In the smith shop in old Auburn, was a casting, called a mandrel. It was about 8 inches in diameter at the base, and some two feet high, tapering upward to a point, its use being to shape bands and rings upon. Mr. Kenney was the only patron of the shop who could take the heavy casting by the top with his right hand, and sling it across the shop. None of his six sons approached him in altitude or strength.

10. 4.

Penrod, Gideon and Timeon Vancil were sons of Samuel Vancil, the first settler in what now constitutes Auburn township. Born in Virginia in 1768, he came to San-

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gamon in the autumn of 1818, settling upon the land now known as the Wimmer place, about a mile southeast of the present Auburn. The first marriage in the township was that of Simeon Vancil and Fersaby Wilson, in 1820. The Vancils now living in the vicinity are descendants of Penrod Vancil, Chas. E., of Auburn, being a grandson. Simeon, the youngest of the three brothers, died in 1875, aged 70. He was, although uneducated, of unusual intellectual capacity, and delighted to entertain his friends, and it was a genuine treat to listen to his graphically told tales of Sangamon's early days. He was a warm friend of the writer of these reminiscences, and whenever the latter was a candidate for a township office, Mr. Vancil was wont to say: "He isn't of my politics, but I'm going to vote for him as long as I live." (For the little bit of vanity exposed in the foregoing, the reader will kindly pardon the undersigned.)

David Eastman, a native of Maine, born in 1794, came to the county in about 1836. He bought land just east of the old town of Auburn, (the place now owned by William Schwalm) and being a tanner by trade, established a tanyard there, which he carried on until his death in 1844. When the old "Acoupin Point" stage route was abandoned and the one through Auburn established, thus abrogating the Sugar Creek postoffice, Mr. Eastman was appointed postmaster of Auburn.

Asa and George Eastman, brothers of David, laid out "Old Auburn," in 1835, and moved thither from Waverly, in 1840. Many lots were sold, but for many years an incubus hung over the place, in the shape of a mortgage on the land, given to secure the purchase money. When the Alton & Sangamon Railroad (now the Chicago & Alton) went through in 1852, the survey was so far west of the village, that it was abandoned as a town, although not without a vigorous and persistent effort to establish the new town immediately east of the old, so as to connect the two. The effort failed, and the new town was laid out on land owned by Philip Mineran. Some time in the early sixties, Asa Eastman (his brother George being dead,) applied to the legislature to have Old Auburn vacated as a village, he having previously bought back the lots that had been sold many years before, and the land was restored to its original status as farming land. I may add that there were never more than seven or eight dwellings in the place, the most pretentious of which was a two-story tavern, kept in 1840, by Wm. S. Swaney, whose name, I find, was omitted in my roster of the early residents.

Edith Goldsboro

Rev. Wm. C. Greenleaf was a native of Newburyport, Mass., but educated in Maine, where he married. Being afflicted with asthma, he came to Illinois, hoping for better health. He established a nursery in Auburn, and for years he provided the people of the community with fruit trees, preaching occasionally, when requested, though he received no compensation for such services. In 1845, he moved to Chatham, Dr. J. R. Lewis having presented him with ten acres of land for nursery purposes, and he became pastor of the Chatham Presbyterian church. Later, he removed to Springfield, where he died of cholera, in 1851. He was a scholarly and most excellent man, and much beloved.

Daniel Fadsworth, who came from his native state of Maine in 1840, was about seven months old when George Washington died, in 1799. He was appointed postmaster of Auburn during Tyler's administration, in 1841, and resigned the office in 1853, after it had been transferred to the new town. His coming to Sangamon County was largely due to the influence of David Eastman (the two men and their wives having been intimate friends in Maine.) Though reared among the Friends (or Quakers,) he united with the Methodist church when a young man. At his death in 1883, in his 90th year, he had been a frater of the Masonic order about 66 years.

No. 5.

I neglected to say in my mention of the Eastman brothers, that Asa and George, in 1840, operated a steam flouring mill on what is now known as "Duck's Branch," immediately west of where the C. & A. track crosses it on Mr. Schwalm's land. It was short-lived, and the engine and machinery were moved to Springfield, in 1841, and formed part of the outfit of a mill built by James M. Lamb and Asa Eastman in the south part of the city, and did business for many years under the name of the "City Mill." The mention of the Auburn mill reminds me that in 1840, one of the men working in it was Wm. B. Fondey, who afterwards became somewhat prominent as adjutant of the regiment of Col. E. F. Baker (afterwards Gen. Baker, and killed at Ball's Bluff,) in the Mexican war. Mr. Fondey was a native of Albany, N. Y., and was well educated. The story was told that he had been a clerk in a Galena bank, and that on one occasion when he had been allowed a day or two off, not returning as soon as expected, he had been discharged. He had come to Eaverly, at the age of 20, to visit his cousin, Mrs. A. Eastman, and had consented to take employment in the Auburn mill, where he remained until after it was removed to Springfield. After peace with Mexico, he returned to Springfield, married, and went into

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business, and the sign of Opdyke & Fonday on the south side of the square confronted the eye for years. Mr. Fonday died in the early sixties.

Owen Maynard came from Baltimore in the late thirties, and conducted a small grocery in Old Auburn until 1840, when he bought of John Roach the farm, two miles north of the village, now sometimes called the "Little Noah Mason Farm." Mr. Maynard married David Eastman's only daughter, and settled down on said farm. He was elected justice of the peace, and was repeatedly re-elected. In 1849, a brother from Mississippi had been visiting him, and on the latter's return home Esq. Maynard took him in a buggy as far as Alton. The cholera was prevailing at the time, and Esq. Maynard contracted the disease. He returned home sick, and died almost immediately.

Most of the readers of this paper have heard of the "Donner Party," most of whom miserably perished of cold and starvation while crossing the plains in 1846. George Donner, one of the principal promoters of the expedition, had two sisters who lived and died in the "Sugar Creek Country," viz: Mrs. Micajah Organ and Mrs. Lydia Walters. The mother of G. B. Walters was also a sister.

Job Fletcher, Sr., born in Virginia in 1793, was one of the earliest settlers, coming from Christian County, Ky., in the autumn of 1819, having been married the previous year. At 19 years of age he served in the war of 1812. Esq. Fletcher was fairly educated, for that day, and being a good writer the people came from far and near to get him to write deeds, mortgages, wills, letters, notes, etc., services for which he always refused compensation. He always claimed to have taught the first school in the county, in 1820 or 1821, and he was a teacher in the first Sunday school in the county, in the old log Sugar Creek meeting house, in 1825. Esq. Fletcher was one of the famous "long line," who were so influential (at the legislative session of 1836-7) in moving the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield, he and Archer Herndon being state senators, and Abraham Lincoln being one of the seven members of the lower house. Esquire Fletcher died in 1872,

Capt. Job Fletcher, nephew of the above, was born in Virginia, and came to Sangamon County in 1830. He held a commission as captain from the governor of Kentucky, in which state he lived about five years.

Capt. Fletcher used to relate that he and Edin

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Lewis (another early comer) hauled sixteen wagon loads of smoked hams and shoulders to St. Louis, selling the meat for \$1.80 to \$2.00 a hundred pounds. At the same time, they had to pay fifty cents a pound for their coffee, twenty-five for sugar, and fifty cents a yard for calico. Corn at that time was worth a picayune (6¢ cents) a bushel, or four cents in the field.

I have sketched but few of the early residents. There are many others fully as prominent as those written of, but as there is much in the way of incident, early habits, customs, etc., to be touched upon, I will bring the biographical department to a close.

No. 6.

Some twenty odd years since, the undersubscribed furnished a series of reminiscences for the columns of the CITIZEN, entitled "Auburn and Vicinity Forty Years Ago." A large portion of the present readers of the paper were not readers of it then, and those of them who were, will kindly be considerate should they find in the succeeding numbers of this series repetitions of many things then written. At any rate they can escape being bored by not reading them.

EARLY DWELLINGS.

In this region in 1840 there were scarcely any houses save those constituted of logs. These were not all mere cabins. Many of them were quite pretentious, being built of hewed logs, and sometimes having upper stories. Frequently there was an open passage-way between the two lower rooms, of six to eight feet in width. Most of the dwellings, however, were built of round logs, and contained but one room, of sixteen or eighteen feet square. The spaces between the logs were chinked and daubed (filled with split sticks and plastered with clay.) The floors were "puncheon"---planks split from straight-grained logs and hewed. Many of the cabins had no windows, but cold or hot, the door was left open, except in stormy weather. The roof was laid with split clap-boards, of three or four feet long, not nailed, but laid in place by "weight poles" across each course. *held*

Of course after every high wind the roof had to be readjusted. The chimney was built outside at one end of the cabin, of sticks split for the purpose, and laid up like a rail pen in clay or mud mortar; the fireplaces were four feet or more in width, for large fires were in-

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dispensable, to make the more or less open huts tolerably comfortable in severe winter weather. Some of the better houses were weather-boarded with clapboards, split from oak timber and shaved. There was no lumber save that sawed at the local mills, for there were no facilities for shipping in pine lumber, and the labor of hauling it by wagon from Chicago or St. Louis would be too tedious and expensive to be thought of.

COOKING.

I think there wasn't a cooking-stove in South Sangamon sixty-three years ago, though a few people had begun to use them in Springfield. The skillet, the iron pot, the "Dutch oven," and the coffee pot were the exclusive utensils, and many impecunious ones worried along with only a skillet and coffee pot, using the first-named article for cooking meat, bread, green or dried fruit, etc. The "Dutch oven" was something like a skillet, but higher, and supplied with a cast lid, with a standing rim to prevent the hot coals placed thereon, to assist in the cooking, from falling off.

FUEL.

Nothing was used but wood, which was cut in the woods, eight or ten feet in length, and hauled on the running gears of the wagon. The vast possibilities in fuel that underlay Sangamon terra firma had not yet been revealed. It is true that the blacksmiths of this vicinity occasionally sent wagons to Spring Creek for "stone coal," as they called it (that cropped out spontaneously along the banks of that stream,) to combine with charcoal for heating their iron, but no one thought of using it for fuel. Wood was very cheap, the principal expense being the hauling.

MILLS.

Some of the present local generation marvel, knowing how rapidly Sugar Creek's high waters run down, how watermills along its banks ever could have been made to pay. Well, the fact is, they never did pay, and were built principally to accommodate the community. But at the time of which I write, the stream was much longer running down than at the present time. Then there was scarcely any drainage, there being no railroads with their ditches, the prairies being almost wholly unbroken, and the small water courses and ponds being much longer discharging their waters into

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the creek. Within the limits of the territory in question, there were two mills, both for sawing and grinding, viz: Rauch's, in the south end of the township, and Crow's, six or seven miles below, with a superannuated one between the two. There was also Black's horse and ox mill, alluded to in a previous paper.

No. 7.

THE VIRGIN PRAIRIES.

The prairies, both on the east and west of Sugar Creek "timber," with the exception of small fields skirting said "timber," had never been burrowed into by the prairie plow, and there were thousands of acres still unentered, to be had at government prices, \$1.25 an acre. Nearly all the settlers were from timbered countries, and were unwilling to pitch their cabins away from the woods. In the broad prairies the grass would grow to a height of three to six feet. This grass was the breeding-place and rendezvous of the dreaded "green-head" fly, and it was almost, and sometimes quite, perilous to the horses to be rode or driven across the prairies on a summer day, without fly nets or other protection for the beasts. Cattle, that wandered away from home, suffered fearfully, and would make their way to the shade before the intense heat of the day. Very few people had fenced pastures, and all the "range," both in and out of the "timber," was open and free.

GAME.

During the score of years succeeding the first settlements, the rifles of the pioneers had, to some extent, thinned out the game, but in '40 deer, turkeys, etc., could still be found in the Apple Creek, Lick Creek, Sugar Creek and Horse Creek regions. There were many experienced hunters living in the community, and it was customary for three, four or five of these hardened warriors to rig up a covered wagon in the winter season, with provisions, cooking tools, bedding and ammunition, and drive over into Morgan or the wilds of Christian County for a week's hunt. They seldom failed to bring home from three to half a dozen deer carcasses, and a few turkeys. Prairie chickens at that time and for years thereafter were very abundant. Many of the old hunters scoffed at a shotgun, and wouldn't deign to shoot at so insignificant a bird as a "chicken," but the adolescent kinrods were not above shooting and trapping them. One

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of the proudest morning's of the writer's life was the one on which he found four fine, fat prairie chickens in his trap.

BEASTS OF BURDEN.

Nearly every farmer kept one or more yoke of "work cattle," and the greater part of the heavy hauling was performed by oxen. Prairie breaking was always done with ox teams, and a single pair was often seen plowing old ground. Many a time I have seen families going to "meeting" (no one called it "church" then,) in a wagon propelled by a yoke of oxen. Mules were not raised extensively, and a pair of work mules was seldom seen.

IMPLEMENTS AND CULTIVATION.

The farming machinery, though not as a rule as that pictured in histories of Bible times, was vastly behind that of the present day. All the breaking plows had wooden mould boards, and only the share would "scour." As early as 1842, however, B. F. Jewett, of Springfield, patented a plow with a cast-iron mould board, which though far from working perfectly, had quite a run, until John Uhler, a Springfield blacksmith, began the manufacture of a plow that beat the "Jewett" all "hollow" for good work, and for years he couldn't supply the demand for his plows. Other good plows came into vogue, and the wooden mould board was a thing of the past. There was but one pattern of harrow---the old "A" harrow. No such thing as a corn planter had yet been devised, or even a "marker." In breaking ground for corn, the "cut and cover" plan was followed by shiftless farmers. The clevis was set over to the side of the beam, causing the plow to take so much "land," that a strip of ground four to six inches wide was left intact, though the dirt, of course, covered it as it fell over. The ground for planting was laid off one way with one horse and a corn plow, and then was in shape for planting, for which operation three hands were required, viz: a man with two horses and a breaking plow to lay off the rows, a boy to follow, dropping the corn in the cross, from a small basket or bucket, and a shovel or "bull tongue" to follow the dropper to cover the corn. Ten acres a day was a big day's work. As all the "tending" of the crops had to be performed with one-horse plows (the inventors of cultivators and riding-plows not having yet made their appearance) 20 to 25 acres was a good season's work for one man. Cats and wheat were

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sowed broadcast, generally, and "brushed in," i. e., the top of a tree was hauled over them, as the previous year's corn stalks were usually plowed under, thus preventing the use of the harrow. The harness (called "gears,") consisted of bridle, wooden hames, collar (many used homemade shuck collars,) backband and trace chains, with no breeching. The single "rope" line was generally used, especially in plowing. It was attached to the bridle rein (and if a two-horse team) to that of the "near" horse. A straight pull meant "haw," and a jerk signified "gee," and a well-trained horse well understood and obeyed these signals/

No. 8.

THE HARVESTING.

Was performed strictly by hand and "elbow grease." Grain was cut by the cradle, and grass (the wild prairie grass) with the scythe, for reaping and mowing machines were yet to be invented. An expert cradler, (if he was a willing man) could cut five acres a day. Every able-bodied youth delighted to secure work among a gang of harvest hands, for they were ever a jolly set. Every three or four "rounds," unless they were working for a very "pushing" man, the gang would sit down and exchange fearful tales of prowess in the harvest fields, or elsewhere, and what was still more bewitching, the girls would bring out a suspicious lunch ("piece," they called it,) in mid-forenoon, and mid-afternoon, and the workmen being apparently hollow, could always appropriate their five meals a day.

THRESHING.

As only a semi- occasional farmer boasted a barn (no one thought of calling the log stables barns,) all grain was stacked. The horse power was just beginning to be heard of, and the greater part of the threshing was done by "tramping out." If no barn floor was available, a place in the stack yard was cleared off for a tramping-floor, and the bundles of wheat, buckwheat or rye, were pitched onto it until there was a sufficient quantity down for tramping. (Very few oats were threshed. They were raised in abundance, there was no market for them, and they were fed to the horses in the sheaf, and generally without cutting---just as they were bound up.) Then two or three horses were put to work marching around in a cir-

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cle, a boy riding the foremost and leading the others. Occasionally the grain would be turned over with a fork. The flail had not gone entirely out of use, and some who had but little grain pounded it out with that primitive implement. As may be supposed the introduction of the horse-power thresher created quite a sensation among the yeomanry.

MARKETS.

There was practically no market for any kind of grain. Of course there was always a small demand for corn, wheat and oats in Springfield, but our farmers couldn't afford to haul corn and oats thither at five to ten cents a bushel, and wheat at 20 to 25, as those living near the city could supply all wants, so the corn was fed to cattle and hogs, principally the latter, and the animals were driven to St. Louis or Alton, in early winter. As for the wheat, if a man raised enough for family consumption, he was satisfied, and few sowed more than five to ten acres. It may be added that wheat at that day was a much surer crop than it is now, especially on the fresh prairie land, the grass roots, in a great measure, preventing the disintegration of the soil by frosts.

RAIMENT.

Men's outer clothing was nearly altogether of homemade jeans, either blue or brown, and women wore linsey dresses ("frocks," they called them,) plain or striped, to suit the taste. The rosy damsels were prone to become dissatisfied with their linsey garb, and would strain every nerve to provide their sweet selves with calico dresses for Sunday wear. Most of the settlers kept a few sheep, and there were many looms in the community, the weaving women taking money or part of the cloth for the work, as suited customers. Some of the youth, feeling above wearing the coarse homemade jeans, would contrive to scrape together enough money to buy material for a suit of "Kentucky jeans," which was much finer and smoother than the homemade article. A broad-cloth suit among the countrymen was almost unknown. I call to mind one young man who managed to obtain a brown broadcloth coat, and his comrades gaped at him unmercifully when he appeared in it. I will not mention his name, for I think he is still living---up in the eighties.

Edwin J. Lockman

SCHOOLS.

This being before the day of the free school system, the schools were of the "subscription" kind. When a man or woman was encouraged by the residents to make up a school, he or she visited each house in the district where there were children, with a subscription paper, and the parents put down the number they wished to send. The school term was only three months in duration, in the winter season, and the tuition price was from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a scholar. Reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, grammar and writing were taught. Sometimes a school house was provided with one desk, at which those practicing penmanship took turns.. The seats were benches, eight or ten feet long, made of slabs, with legs in one and one-half inch augur holes.

No. 9.

RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES.

In 1840 there were three church organizations in the Sugar Creek country, viz: Methodist, Old School Presbyterian, and Cumberland Presbyterian. I might say four, for St. Bernard's (Catholic) church had been organized, though it was outside of the territory embraced in this history. I think the Baptists had no organization at that time, though quite a strong church was organized two or three years later. Neither of these organizations had a house of worship, and school houses, private houses, and in the summer, barns, were used for holding services. There were two small brick school houses in the vicinity (one near Simon Vancil's, and one near Alex S. Orr's,) where there was frequent preaching, and services were occasionally held in a small frame school house in Old Auburn. The preachers of that day were mostly uneducated and uncultured, but pious, devoted men, and never expected payment for their labors, but the best in every house, in the way of entertainment, was gladly served to them. There was always one man in every congregation who was depended upon to "raise the tune," and all, male and female, sang the same part---the "air." The tunes were mostly from the "Old Missouri Harmony," and it is rare that any of them are heard at the present day.

Oliver Lockman

MARRIAGES.

It was as common for young men to assume the marriage relation under twenty-one as beyond that age, and perhaps more so, and brides of sixteen to seventeen were very frequent. Indeed, many were married at fifteen and fourteen. I remember that a daughter of one of the prominent families, large of her age, was married at thirteen, and with her parents' consent. Whenever the children wished to marry, and the parents or guardians objected, it was an easy matter to skip out clandestinely for "Kizzoura," where no marriage licenses were required.

FARM WAGES.

Good farm hands received \$6 to \$8 a month, with board and washing. The writer, when 19, worked for \$5.00 per month, and the following year for \$8. Occasionally an extra-active, reliable hand would be paid as much as ten dollars. Hands, hired in corn-planting time, commanded 50 to 62½ cents a day. Harvest wages were from 75c to \$1.00, though most of the harvesting was accomplished by "swapping work."

HOLIDAYS AND MERRYMAKING.

There were few holidays, Christmas being the only one to which the settlers paid much attention. Thanksgiving had not yet got beyond New England and New York, and many people had never heard of the day. But little attention was paid to the Glorious Fourth outside of the cities. The day of the annual election was utilized as a holiday, and every boy old enough to ride a horse accompanied his father or elder brothers to the voting-place, where all generally spent the day. Sugar Creek precinct comprised a very large territory, and the elections were held at John L. Brennan's, just north of the Old C. P. church. There was usually something stronger than water to sell close by, and the young men and many of the older ones spent a part of the day in horse racing, foot racing, jumping and wrestling.

But it must not be supposed that owing to the dearth of holidays the residents had no amusements. Shuckings and quiltings were common, and it was usually arranged to combine the two. All the young people within several miles assembled, and the work was always completed be-

Albert Goshawm

fore dark. Then a supper fit for the royal family, then the largest room was cleared for dances or plays, or both. If the former the first fiddler of the neighborhood was on hand, proud as the Czar of Russia, ready to saw out "Money Musk," "Devil's Dream," "Irish Washerwoman," or "Fisher's Hornpipe," while the "lads and lassies in their best" swung, circled, chased until "the wee sma' hours." If plays were on the docket, upon the air would rise the melting strains of

"Come under, come under,
 My honey, my lover, my heart's above,
 My heart's gone a-weeping,
 Below Gallilee.
 Then hug her nest, and kiss her sweet,
 My honey, my love, my heart's above,
 My heart's gone a-weeping,
 Below Gallilee."

Or,

"I won't have any of your weevly wheat,
 I won't have none of your barley,
 I won't have none of your weevly wheat,
 To bake a cake for Charley.
 My bonny lass, I turn to thee,
 I give one smile to cheer thee,
 Heart and hand the Bible stands,
 The truth I love sincerely."

Or,

"Oh, sister Fhebe, how happy was we,
 The night we sat under the Junapper tree,
 The Junapper tree, heigho.
 Then put this hat on to keep your head warm,
 And take a sweet kiss, it will do you no harm,"
 But a great deal of good, I know."

(Note: The Junapper tree is, I think, unknown in the land at the present day. It is supposed that it is a cross between the June apple and the Juniper.)

HOG DRIVING TO THE RIVER.

In that far-distant past which these papers recall, there was no such thing as the "cash system" for the farmers, for they had but one time in the year to gather in returns for their labor, to-wit: the fall and early winter, and all were compelled to buy on credit until re-

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turns from their crops came in. The Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad was yet a dozen years in the future. There was but an insignificant home market for corn, and there was but one way to realize money from it, which was to feed it to stock, principally hogs, and then when fattened they were driven to St. Louis or Alton, generally the latter, for Alton, at that time, was a formidable rival of the Missouri city, and bade fair to outstrip her. As soon as the weather turned cold enough to make pork-packing a safe proposition (generally early in December,) hog driving began. There were, of course, buyers who bought up droves, but most of the farmers preferred to join together and drive their own hogs. From half a dozen to a dozen would combine, each marking his animals so that he could identify them, and, with a wagon or two, in which to load an occasional heavy porker that might "break down" on the way, the company would set out on their southern pilgrimage, a week to ten days being required to drive to "the river," the time occupied largely depending on the state of the roads. The women at the houses of entertainment dreaded the advent of the "hog drivers," for they were usually a rough set---much more so on the road than they were at home. The price paid for gross hogs at the packing houses were from \$1.75 to \$2.75 per hundred pounds.

AND WAGONING.

Occasionally, in prolific years, some of the soil-tillers had a surplus of wheat, and that had to be transported to the river markets, and if the wagoners could secure loads of goods to haul back for the Springfield merchants, they were doubly fortunate. If the trip was made during the pleasant fall, and there was a jovial company, it was an enjoyable journey.

A SPECIMEN WAGON TRIP.

The wheat crop of 1841 was a remarkably heavy one, and the grain was of unusual excellence. Nearly every man who sowed wheat the previous fall had a superabundance. "Uncle Si" Harlan, who lived at "The Grove," (the present home of Capt. Irwin,) had sowed a wide acreage, and had a large quantity to spare. In October, during Indian summer, he loaded four wagons for St. Louis, and two other men with loads of wheat joined the company, which consisted of W. D. Crow, George Eastman, John Fill, John A., Jehu and Elijah

Eileen Goddard

Harlan, the latter driving two yoke of oxen. Two lads, George W. Harlan (a brother of Mrs. Irwin) and the writer, by dint of much importunity, were permitted to accompany expedition. The weather and roads throughout the journey, which occupied about a week, were about as near perfection as weather and roads ever get to be in this world. Each man was provided with horse feed, quilts, blankets, skillet, coffee pot, a boiled ham or cold fowl, light bread, stewed fruit, pies, butter, fresh pork for frying, ground coffee, etc., etc. The first night we camped in the woods about two miles beyond Carlenville, the following night in the Food River country. Dry fuel for the night and morning fires could be picked up anywhere in the woods, and our beds were spread on the ground beneath the wagons. The teams watered and fed, the jolly company surrounded the fire, seated on Nature's footstool, supper devoured with superhuman appetites, and ruddy blaze illuminating the landscape for many rods around, the most marvelous tales were related of pioneer times---of hunting, fighting, wrestling, encounters with Indians, jokes on each other, etc., until a late hour.

In the afternoon of the third day the wagons were driven upon the Higgins Ferry boat, and the Father of Waters was crossed. The wheat was sold at thirty odd cents a bushel, and the teams recrossed the in time to camp on the bank, where East St. Louis now stands. There were three or four shanties on the ground, which was called "Taptown," from an old fellow known as "Old Tap," who furnished entertainment in the largest log building. The next morning our company was reinforced by Noah and Thomas Mason and Lara Barnes, who had left home, also with wheat, the day after our company started, and had driven late at night to overtake us. (I forgot to say that Life Harlan, with his slow ox team, always fell behind, but by driving until nine or ten o'clock at night would overtake his comrades.)

Looking back after a lapse of nearly sixty-two years, it seems to me that I never spent a more enjoyable week, and it will never cease to be one of the brightest links in Memory's chain. Yet to me there is a vein of sadness in the reminiscence. For many long years "the grass has grown green" over the resting-place of every one of that party of eleven, save the one who pens these chapters.

Eileen Gordon

NOMENCLATURE.

Sangamon was originally, I believe, an Indian name. Simeon Vancil told me that in his boyhood this part of Illinois was called the "San-gan-ma Country." Sugar Creek derived its name from the large number of sugar trees (hard maple) in its forests. Panther Creek was so called, so says tradition, from the fact that a panther was shot by a pioneer hunter in the limbs of a huge cottonwood that stood for many years on the east bank of that stream, just southwest of where L. M. Beechley's farm house stands. This tree was so tall that it would be seen for many miles. I recall that when a youth, over in the Apple Creek region, in pursuit of a fugitive horse, I found my way home over the trackless prairie by keeping my eyes on that old landmark. Senility caused its downfall thirty or forty years ago. Panther Creek was "Painter Creek" to the early settlers, and is still so denominated by the old fellows.

EARLY MALADIES.

In those days consumption, bronchitis, catarrh, kidney troubles, diphtheria, appendicitis and the 1001 other maladies that now afflict mankind, were almost unknown. There was an occasional case of rheumatism, and also of pneumonia, known as "winter fever." "Fever'n agur" was a familiar visitant at nearly every house, especially in wet seasons. There was so little drainage that the spring rains left many ponds and puddles on the prairies that stagnated in hot weather, and engendered chills and fever and bilious fevers. But there were few cases of diseased lungs, and they were mostly hereditary. There being no air-tight houses, or stoves to vitiate the atmosphere, everybody breathed the best air that was to be had. Diet, too, had much to do with the general good health. Though meat was generally eaten, it was that of healthy animals. Baking powders, chemically prepared sugars and syrups, patent flour, and the diverse adulterated foods that now infest the markets and the intestines, had not yet been devised. The bread was of course corn meal or of slightly bolted flour, and no dyspepsia followed in its train.

CURRENCY.

The paper circulating medium consisted of notes of many western banks, nearly all below par value,

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of which "state bank paper" was the most common. But the bills of the Missouri State Bank were always at par, and generally preferred to specie, from the greater convenience of handling. There was but little gold in circulation, and the few coins in use were mostly foreign, principally British sovereigns, which passed at \$4.85. The greater part of the silver money, too, was foreign--- Spanish, Mexican and French. Mexican dollars were very common, and passed at full value; French 5-franc pieces at 95 cents; Spanish dollars, halves, quarters, eights and sixteenths circulated at full value. The latter two coins were known as "bits" and "picayunes," and were denominated respectively as "long bits" and "long picayunes," in contradistinction to the few United States dimes and 5-cent pieces, which were called "short bits" and "short picayunes," though each carried the same value as its Spanish fellow. Copper coins were ignored. The people had a sovereign contempt for anything less than a picayune. If an article wasn't worth that, it wasn't worth anything.

VEHICULAR MATTERS.

Traveling was performed nearly altogether on horseback, and the great ambition of every youth was to have a horse, saddle and bridle for his or her very own. If a family was to make a journey, and there were not saddle horses "to go 'round," the 2-horse wagon was called into requisition. A carriage or buggy was a rare sight, and I remember but one or two of each in all the south part of the county. This being before the day of elliptical springs, the bodies of all riding vehicles were hung on "thorough braces," heavy leather straps of several thicknesses, stitched like a tug. These afforded no spring for the passengers, but gave them a gentle rocking, which was something of an improvement over the jolt of the common wagon. The stage coaches were all equipped with "thoroughbraces."

THE MATTER OF FENCES.

Splint rails were the only material for fences, and good white oak rails could be bought for \$1.00 a hundred, the price for making them being 50 to 62½ cents, though earlier the price had been less. The Bois D'Arc, or Osage Orange, as a fencing commodity, had not yet been introduced from Texas. I recollect that when Dr. C. D.

Allen Graham

Nuckolls (father of citizen Thos. Jefferson) returned from a Texas visit, with report that the people there were using this tree for hedges, and bringing with him a collection of walking canes, handsomely turned from this wood, they attracted much curiosity.

It didn't seem to occur to the residents but that the country would always have to depend on the native forests for fuel, fencing and lumber; consequently the timber was held at a high figure, and new comers settling farms, and finding the timber lands all taken up, and being in many cases short of money, were sorely put to it to devise means for fencing their farms and building their shanties.

No. 12.

PRAIRIE FIRES.

One of the notable institutions of lang syne was prairie fires. In the late autumn, after the grass had been killed by the frost, and before the winter snows, the grass was as dry and combustible as pine shavings, and every fall more or less damage was done to fences, stacks or buildings by these conflagrations, set purposefully or carelessly by campers or mischievous boys, and sometimes for self protection only. If there was little or no wind, the fires could be brought under subjection by a force of men and boys, assisted frequently where the situation was threatening by the women and children, with handfuls of brush, old garments, etc., with which the flames were whipped out.

-SUGAR CREEK COUNTRY- IN 1840.

A most magnificent sight was a blaze in the tall grass, perhaps miles in length, and eight or ten feet high, and rapidly propelled by a strong wind, and woe to the cabin, fence or stack that stood in the path. The settlers, if living away from the woods, in anticipation of the annual fires, usually plowed several furrows of sod about their cabins and lots to check possible flames, and when there was but little breeze this precaution was usually efficacious, but if there was a high wind, the blaze would leap over these barriers.

Julien Johnson

MEXICAN WAR SOLDIERS.

South Sugar Creek furnished five soldiers for the war with Mexico in '46, all of whom were in Col. E. D. Baker's command. They were William and Peyton Foster, Thomas W. Higgins, P. Newton Dodds, and William Tinker. The ~~men~~ ⁴ first-named were natives of Kentucky, but reared in the "Sugar Creek Country." I do not know Tinker's nativity. All lived to get home after the war ended in '47, but Tinker, who had contracted camp diarrhea; soon after his return succumbed to that malady. Wm. Foster, the last I knew of him, was yet living on his farm, north-west of Chatham. His brother, Peyton, settled in California many years ago, and as far as I know, still survives. Thos. W. Higgins died in Auburn, as is well known. P. N. Dodds emigrated to Kansas a long time ago, and I think is dead.

EARLY BLACKSMITHS AND SHOEMAKERS.

There were three of each within the territory embraced in this history. Of the former, W. S. Swaney, the Old Auburn innkeeper, conducted by proxy a shop near the tavern; Abram Fessler had a small shop at his home, where H. S. Wineman's house now stands, and Sam'l Wimer hammered iron at his bachelor abode, two miles north of town, near the present Cherry Grove school house. Of shoemakers, Robert Orr, Sr., carried on the business at his home, near James B. Fletcher's present residence; W. F. Cannon worked at the trade at his house, just north-west of the Old Noah Mason homestead, and John Spurgeon did likewise near the Old Cumberland church. There were several men in the vicinity who worked occasionally at carpenter work, and others who sometimes laid brick and laid on plaster, but most of them were self-taught in their respective vocations. There were no painters, and no occasion for any.

HONESTY OF THE EARLY COMERS.

It was seldom that anyone heard a word derogatory to the integrity of any of the people of the Sugar Creek region of three score years ago. In their transactions with each other every man's word was literally as "good as his bond." It is true that here and there a man permitted himself a little latitude when it came to

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a "horse swap," but though he might exaggerate the virtues or soundness of the animal he was offering for trade, he would be found "straight" in all other respects. Such a thing as burglary, a highway robbery or a more modest theft, was only heard of from distant localities, and to my knowledge not a house in the community had a fastening on a door.

With this number I bring these papers to a close. I have extended them considerably beyond what I first expected, and I fear they have been at times somewhat prosy. I love to think and to write of these far times in the past; of the primitive and simple habits and customs of these early dwellers in South Sangamon, as I knew them; of their freedom from pride and ostentation; of their incorruptibility and integrity; their simplicity; their ever-ready willingness to assist, without money and without price, any neighbor in need of help; their courage, and their blameless lives.

An occasional man or woman, type of those ancient days, spared beyond the usual age allotted to mankind, can yet be met, but they are but a mere handful, and will soon be among us no more.

M. G. W.

Eileen Johnson



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